



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

WILLIAM H. BEARDSLEY  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT #VII.A.

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: William H. Beardsley, Acting Commissioner\*

Date: January 13, 2016

Subject: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Concept Approval Consideration*; Portland Public Schools for a new PreK-5 School Construction Project.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

Acting Superintendent of Schools, Jeanne Crocker, requests that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval for a new PreK-5, 558 student school.

The Hall School rated #12 on the 2010-2011 School Facilities Rating Cycle. The original school was built in 1956 and had out lived its useful life. Since the rating cycle a portion of the building received extensive fire damage.

The proposed new school will be built on the existing 21 acre school site and the majority of the student population will be able to remain on the site during construction.

The new building will be designed to meet the Department of Education School Construction standards and all state and local agencies have had input and where necessary, documented approvals are on file. The project received State Board of Education Site Approval on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1) and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

**Project description by Acting Superintendent Jeanne Crocker**

Hall School was positioned # 12 of the 71 projects evaluated statewide and became a funded project with State Board of Education approval in April, 2014. The current Fred P. Hall School, originally built as a temporary facility, has served the neighborhood faithfully for over 50 years. However, roof leaks and a fire are symptoms of a facility whose time has come. We are looking forward to creating a robust anchor school that will serve the neighborhood another 50 years or more.

The new school will transform teaching and learning through spaces that inspire a collegial community of learners to collaborate in creating a student- and community-centered 21st century learning environment. This collaboration will focus on allowing students to own their own learning through research-based instructional practices that incorporate facility-based learning and STEAM principles. Effective communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking will form the cornerstone of discovering and exchanging knowledge. Classroom walls will not confine learning. Surrounded by woods with trails and a water course, students will have an immediate connection to the natural world and appreciate the value of the local and global community essential to a comprehensive education. Instructional spaces will allow for the integration of content with hands-on and experiential learning. The school's design will meet the specialized needs of each student by providing best practice support services that are seamless and contribute to helping all students achieve learning goals. Presently, the school welcomes a variety of individuals and groups that offer skills, information and mentorship (e.g., Maine College of Art, Audubon, University of New England, Foster Grandparents, Deering High School students, volunteers, etc.). The new school will provide adequate and flexible space for these and other community connections to continue. We will also pledge to retain some treasured current building or site features such as the 130 gallon aquarium, which is a place for serene observation, inquiry, instruction and learning.

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Exhibit#VII.A.  
Concept Approval Consideration  
Portland Public School to replace the Hall Elementary School  
Date: January 13, 2016

**Project Information**

Project: #12 New Portland Elementary School  
Interim Superintendent: Jeanne Crocker  
Principal: Dawn Kenniston  
Architect: Oak Point Associates  
School(s) to be closed: A new school will replace the existing Hall School

**Project Budget Information**

Total Project Cost: \$29,720,456  
Local Only (no State participation): \$1,390,485  
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$28,329,971

**COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION**

The Acting Commissioner of the Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to the Portland School System for a new 558 PreK-5 Elementary School and also approve the Concept Budget as presented.

**CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

On January 4, 2016, the Construction Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to Portland Public Schools for a new PreK-5 Elementary School in Portland, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the concept budget as presented.

\*Prepared by the Division of School Facilities